# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1352
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
UNSAFE SYRINGES
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether according to the recent report of the World Bank, about 65% of the syringes used in India are unsafe;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the total demand and production of the syringes in the country, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for such demand and supply of syringes?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. No study was conducted by the World Bank to assess the safety of syringes. However, a study was conducted to assess injection practices in India by International Clinical epidemiology Network (INCLEN), in coordination with Clinical Epidemiology Unit, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and supported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and World Bank.

The report reveals that nearly two third of all injections were found to be unsafe due to following reasons:

1) Using inadequately sterilized syringe/needle and/or if syringes/needle were re-used for another patients.

2) Disposable plastic syringe/needle picked up from open pack.

3) An injection was considered unsafe on account of faulty injection administering technique e.g. needle wiped with a swab before injection, not wearing gloves, multidose vial not clean or wiped with a swab before drawing medicine, drug drawn from broken/already used vial or ampoule, glass syringe and metal needle not flushed after use etc.

(c)&(d): There are more than 30 manufacturing units of disposable/single use syringes and needles in the country and 10 registered overseas manufacturing sites of disposable/single use syringes and needles for import into the country. Report of shortage of disposable/single use syringes and needles in the country has not come to the notice of this Ministry.